

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2455

To improve air cargo security.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 12, 2003

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. ANDREWS, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. ETHERIDGE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To improve air cargo security.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Universal Screening
5 of Air Cargo Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. INSPECTION OF CARGO CARRIED ABOARD PAS-**
7 **SENGER AIRCRAFT.**

8 Section 44901 of title 49, United States Code, is
9 amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subsections “(g)” and
2 “(h)” as subsections “(h)” and “(i)”, respectively;
3 and

4 (2) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(g) AIR CARGO ON PASSENGER AIRCRAFT.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary of
8 Border and Transportation Security of the Depart-
9 ment of Homeland Security shall establish systems
10 to screen or inspect to ensure the security of all
11 cargo that is to be transported in passenger aircraft
12 operated by an air carrier or foreign air carrier in
13 air transportation or intrastate air transportation.
14 Such systems shall use equipment, technology, and
15 personnel to screen and inspect cargo that meet the
16 same standards established to screen passenger bag-
17 gage.

18 “(2) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—The Under Sec-
19 retary shall—

20 “(A) develop an implementation plan to
21 carry out paragraph (1); and

22 “(B) establish a fee schedule for shippers
23 to cover costs associated with carrying out
24 paragraph (1) that is similar to the security

1 service fee imposed on passengers under section
2 44940.

3 “(3) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW
4 TECHNOLOGIES.—The Under Secretary shall mon-
5 itor and evaluate the research and development of
6 effective cargo screening technologies.”.

7 **SEC. 3. AIR CARGO SHIPPING.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 449 of
9 title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
10 end the following:

11 **“§ 44922. Regular inspections of air cargo shipping**
12 **facilities**

13 “The Under Secretary of Border and Transportation
14 Security of the Department of Homeland Security shall
15 establish a system for the regular inspection of shipping
16 facilities for shipments of cargo transported in air trans-
17 portation or intrastate air transportation to ensure that
18 appropriate security controls, systems, and protocols are
19 observed, and shall enter into arrangements with the civil
20 aviation authorities, or other appropriate officials, of for-
21 eign countries to ensure that inspections are conducted on
22 a regular basis at shipping facilities for cargo transported
23 in air transportation to the United States.”.

24 (b) ADDITIONAL INSPECTORS.—The Under Secretary
25 of Border and Transportation Security of the Department

1 of Homeland Security may increase the number of inspec-
2 tors as necessary to implement the requirements of title
3 49, United States Code, as amended by this Act.

4 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The chapter anal-
5 ysis for chapter 449 of title 49, United States Code, is
6 amended by adding at the end the following:

“44922. Regular inspections of air cargo shipping facilities.”.

7 **SEC. 4. TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CARGO HANDLERS.**

8 The Under Secretary of Border and Transportation
9 Security of the Department of Homeland Security shall
10 establish a training and evaluation program for any per-
11 sons that handle air cargo to ensure that the cargo is
12 properly handled and safeguarded from security breaches.

13 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

14 This Act and the amendments made this Act shall
15 take effect on November 27, 2003 (Thanksgiving Day),
16 or 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, which-
17 ever is later.

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